

State of California
The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Wildlife Programs Branch

2004 Annual Bear Take Report

Summary:

The 2004 black bear hunting season closed according to the regulations on December 26, 2004. The recent regulation change that increased the tag quota from 1,500 to 1,700 bears harvested has made this the fourth time in ten years that the season has run to its designated closure date rather than closing when the Department has received its tag quota. The License and Revenue Branch has reported that a total of 21,000 bear tags were sold in 2004 with 20,913 resident and 177 non-resident tags. Non-resident tag sales decreased again in 2004 and now compromise less than one percent of tag sales. A total of 1,848 black bears were reported taken this year and overall hunter success was 8.8%, up a point from 2003.

Once again, success rates for the different hunting methods varied only marginally in 2004 compared to previous years (see Table 3). Hunters with trailing hounds took 968 bears, (52.4%), which is up 3% from 2003 but still representing about half the kills. Hunters took 547 bears (29.6%) while they were deer hunting, a slight decrease, percentage-wise, from last year. Archery hunters accounted for only 109 kills, up about a percent from last year, while the number of hunters using guides increased slightly to 6.2% (114 kills).

Ninety-five percent of successful hunters and 3.7% of unsuccessful bear hunters indicated the number of days they spent hunting on their report cards. Successful hunters spent an average of 4.1 days and unsuccessful hunters an average of 8.1 days hunting bear, just slightly different than 2003. A total of 379 (20.5%) successful bear hunters said they had taken bears on private land, this is up 7% from last year, which means more bears are being taken on public lands. Preliminary numbers, as of 03/08/2005 show that premolar teeth were collected from 1,492 (80.7%) of the bears harvested.

Again in 2004 the general bear season and deer season overlapped in the A, B, C, D, and some of the X zones (see Table 4). Zones X-1 through X-7b opened on October 2nd. During the general deer season hunters were limited to one dog per hunter. Regulation changes in 2002 continue to be the primary factor affecting tag sales, season closure, and changes in the proportions of bear take by hunting method.

Seasons:

Archery Bear Season: Opened August 21, closed September 12, 2004.

General Bear Season: Opened (Table 4), closed December 26, 2004.

Table 1: 2004 Black Bear Take by					
Department of Fish and Game Region and County					
Region 1	County	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
	Del Norte	21	9	0	30
	Humboldt	87	66	1	154
	Lassen	10	8	0	18
	Modoc	0	0	0	0
	Shasta	129	70	0	199
	Siskiyou	148	61	0	209
	Tehama	46	21	0	67
	Trinity	133	91	0	224
	Subtotal	574	326	13	901
	% of Take	31.0%	17.6%	0.05%	48.8%
Region 2	Alpine	6	3	0	9
	Amador	2	0	0	2
	Butte	12	18	0	30
	Calaveras	19	17	0	36
	Colusa	3	1	0	4
	El Dorado	35	28	0	63
	Glenn	20	11	0	31
	Nevada	9	10	0	19
	Placer	22	27	0	49
	Plumas	48	31	0	79
	Sierra	14	5	0	19
	Yolo	0	0	0	0
	Yuba	16	3	0	19
	Subtotal	206	154	0	360
	% of Take	11.1%	8.3%	0.0%	19.5%
Region 3	Lake	8	2	0	10
	Mendocino	54	31	0	85
	San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	62	33	0	95
	% of Take	3.4%	1.8%	0.0%	5.1%
Region 4	Fresno	66	33	0	99
	Kern	48	11	0	59
	Madera	24	23	0	47
	Mariposa	24	10	0	34
	Stanislaus	0	0	0	0
	Tulare	50	38	0	88
	Tuolumne	54	19	0	73
	Subtotal	266	134	0	400
	% of Take	14.4%	7.2%	0.0%	21.6%
Region 5	Los Angeles	8	5	0	13
	Santa Barbara	12	12	0	24
	Ventura	13	11	0	24
	Subtotal	33	28	0	61
	% of Take	1.8%	1.6%	0.0%	3.3%
Region 6	Inyo	2	0	0	2
	Mono	8	3	0	11
	Riverside	1	1	0	2
	San Bernardino	12	2	0	14
	Unknown	2	0	0	2
	Subtotal	25	6	0	31
	% of Take	1.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.7%
Statewide Totals		1,166	681	1	1,848
Statewide Percent of Take		63.1%	36.8%	0.05%	100%

Table 2
Ten Year Bear Take Data
For Returned Bear Tags

Ten-Year Bear Take Data										
County	1995	1996¹	1997¹	1998¹	1999¹	2000¹	2001¹	2002	2003	2004
Alpine	7	14	10	10	26	19	5	5	8	9
Amador	2	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	2
Butte	55	32	63	28	48	38	39	51	45	30
Calaveras	11	25	26	13	12	19	17	19	20	36
Colusa	0	1	5	6	2	0	2	2	1	4
Del Norte	34	44	35	51	53	32	18	28	22	30
El Dorado	47	23	44	44	29	61	61	61	61	63
Fresno	49	75	85	62	70	94	78	78	86	99
Glenn	8	23	11	22	27	33	18	25	27	31
Humboldt	82	102	119	142	164	130	110	147	113	154
Inyo	4	4	2	1	3	5	2	5	2	2
Kern	25	40	32	34	32	79	85	76	68	59
Lake	5	16	16	16	7	8	27	11	5	10
Lassen	18	11	7	22	30	19	13	8	26	18
Los Angeles	12	9	5	6	13	13	16	2	9	13
Madera	38	48	67	50	41	41	46	53	43	47
Mariposa	26	33	22	15	30	20	35	27	24	34
Mendocino	73	94	86	102	91	93	122	78	74	85
Merced	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Modoc	0	5	0	0	6	6	3	4	3	0
Mono	5	6	7	6	4	10	10	9	2	11
Napa	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1
Nevada	22	7	12	9	15	20	17	14	15	19
Placer	32	26	50	36	32	38	37	34	38	49
Plumas	93	77	98	96	71	49	82	75	61	79
Riverside	2	3	6	2	2	4	2	5	3	2
San Bernardino	24	19	18	17	17	14	23	25	30	14
San Joaquin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	8	19	23	20	18	14	16	12	8	24
Shasta	183	219	148	185	208	179	104	178	142	199
Sierra	21	16	32	12	33	31	34	28	16	19
Siskiyou	171	196	156	205	260	181	104	199	190	209
Sonoma	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Stanislaus	1	0	2	5	4	6	1	2	3	0
Tehama	52	71	76	75	86	65	79	81	67	67
Trinity	169	261	184	186	242	190	198	179	201	224
Tulare	83	84	107	103	75	133	130	138	158	88
Tuolumne	63	68	84	60	46	103	66	60	66	73
Ventura	13	29	22	24	20	27	21	26	14	24
Yolo	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Yuba	8	2	14	6	13	17	8	17	12	19
Unknown	36	4	0	3	2	3	3	1	0	1
Total	1,484	1,714	1,677	1,676	1,836	1,796	1,633	1,768	1,670	1,848
Bear Tags Sold	12,169	15,000	15,264	18,475	18,321	20,620	19,796	22,157	22,331	21,000

Table 3
Method of Take Summary
For Returned Bear Tags, Statewide-2004

County	Used Dogs	Used Archery Equipment	While Deer Hunting	Used Guides	Hunt In County (Res)	(%) H.I.C. /Total
Alpine	2	0	3	0	0	0.00%
Amador	0	0	2	0	0	0.00%
Butte	20	1	6	0	15	0.81%
Calaveras	22	1	12	0	7	0.38%
Colusa	0	0	4	0	1	0.05%
Del Norte	13	1	4	1	25	1.35%
El Dorado	23	4	28	0	17	0.92%
Fresno	47	6	27	1	70	3.79%
Glenn	4	1	23	0	3	0.16%
Humboldt	111	4	22	10	105	5.68%
Inyo	0	0	1	0	1	0.05%
Kern	26	8	18	7	26	1.41%
Lake	5	0	4	0	2	0.11%
Lassen	16	1	1	0	4	0.22%
Los Angeles	2	4	7	0	7	0.38%
Madera	24	1	16	0	11	0.60%
Mariposa	17	1	10	0	6	0.32%
Mendocino	19	8	45	2	20	1.08%
Merced	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Modoc	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Mono	0	2	3	0	3	0.16%
Napa	0	0	1	0	1	0.05%
Nevada	7	2	11	1	3	0.16%
Placer	16	5	22	3	12	0.65%
Plumas	62	9	13	2	1	0.05%
Riverside	0	0	1	0	2	0.11%
San Bernardino	8	2	2	0	3	0.16%
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Santa Barbara	2	0	19	0	5	0.27%
Shasta	111	8	48	31	114	6.17%
Sierra	8	0	7	0	3	0.16%
Siskiyou	154	9	32	26	68	3.68%
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stanislaus	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Tehama	29	3	27	2	21	1.14%
Trinity	126	17	78	6	49	2.65%
Tulare	36	10	20	24	36	1.95%
Tuolumne	42	1	22	0	17	0.92%
Ventura	1	0	8	0	6	0.32%
Yolo	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Yuba	15	0	0	0	7	0.38%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	968	109	547	114	671	
% of Harvest	52.4%	5.9%	29.6%	6.2%	36.3%	36.3%

Table 4
Opening Date and Season Length of Bear Season by Deer Hunting Zone
2004 Hunting Season

Deer Zone	Opening Date	Closing Date	Season Length
A	August 14	December 26	135
B1, B2, B3, B5	September 18	December 26	100
B4	August 28	December 26	121
B6	September 18	December 26	100
C1, C2, C3 C4	September 18	December 26	100
D3, D4, D5, D8, D9, D10	September 25	December 26	93
D6, D7	September 18	December 26	100
D11, D13, D14, D15, D17	October 9	December 26	79
D12	November 6	December 26	49
D16	October 23	December 26	65
D19	October 2	December 26	86
X1-7b	October 2	December 26	86
X8, X10	September 25	December 26	93
X9a, X9b, X12	September 18	December 26	100
X9c	October 16	December 26	72